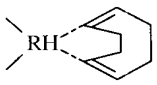
Remarks

Claims 11 - 28 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicants note that a Preliminary Amendment was filed in this case, and claims 1 - 9, which have been examined, are no longer pending. Applicants will address the rejections as they might have applied to claims 11 - 21.

The present invention is directed to the use of a select group of rhodium hydrosilylation catalysts which allow addition-curable organopolysiloxane compositions to have long pot lives while still curing completely at higher temperatures. The compositions can be cured to transparent elastomers free of hydrogen gas bubbles, free of platinum precipitates, and free of yellow coloration.

Claims 1 - 9 have been rejected for the use of "0.5" prior to cyclooctadiene and norbomadiene. This nomenclature is commonly used to refer to the situation where two "L" ligands together comprise a COD or NBD ligand, i.e. a structure such as that of formula V which contains the structure



Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is solicited.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 9 have been rejected as anticipated by the abstract of SU 1512997. Claims 1 - 2, and 5 have been rejected as anticipated by the Abstract from J. APP. POLY. SCI.. Claims 1 - 2, 5, and 8 - 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over DE 3015890. Claims 1 - 2, 5, and 8 - 9 have been similarly rejected over *Takago* U.S. 5,312,885. Each of these references discloses only very specific rhodium catalysts, for use in hydrosilylation-curable compositions containing methylvinylsiloxy units, i.e. vinyl-on-chain

polymers. The claims have amended to limit the rhodium catalysts now claimed. None of these catalysts are disclosed by any of the foregoing references. Withdrawal of these three rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is solicited.

Claims 1 - 2, 5, and 8 - 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Lee et al.* U.S. 4,026,835. *Lee* discloses foamable silicone compositions prepared by catalyzing the reaction between Si-OH (silanol) groups and Si-H groups, liberating hydrogen gas, which produces the foaming effect. Applicants compositions are molding compositions, not foams, and in fact Applicants clearly indicate in the specification that generation of hydrogen is undesirable. Claim 1 has been amended accordingly. The claims require an ethylenically-unsaturated hydrocarbon-functional organopolysiloxane, such as one containing Si-vinyl units, and an Si-H functional compound (crosslinker). By excluding hydrogen generation, hydroxyl (silanol)-functional organopolysiloxanes are also excluded. Withdrawal of the rejection over *Lee* is solicited.

Claims 3 and 6 - 9 (corresponding to present claims 12 and 14 - 16) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over SU 1512997. SU 1512997 discloses use of (acetylacetonato)dicarbonylrhodium (I) as a catalyst for compositions useful for electrical insulation, employing as the unsaturated compound in the addition curable compositions, low molecular weight vinyl-on-chain organopolysiloxanes. It is submitted that in view of the prior art as a whole, that not all rhodium compounds are catalytic, and that there is a great deal of unpredictability in their use. If this were not so, then why would references like SU 1512997 and DE 3,015,890 each disclose but a single catalyst, and *Takago*, for example, disclose only three catalysts, despite the existence of a wide range of rhodium compounds. The single rhodium catalyst disclosed by SU 1512997 is not similar to those presently claimed, and Applicants submit, therefore, that the claims are non-obvious over SU 1512997.

Claims 3, 4, (corresponding to claims 12, 13) and claims 6 - 9 (corresponding to claims 14 - 16) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the J. APP. POLY. SCI.

abstract. As is the case with SU 1512997, the claimed catalysts are quite different from those of J. APP. POLY. SCI., and thus withdrawal of the rejection is solicited. With respect to claim 4 (claim 13), the abstract does not teach or suggest any heat stabilizer (relevant to claim 3, now claim 12 as well), much less the specific heat stabilizers of claim 13. The abstract would appear to be so sparse in its disclosure that it is non-enabling. The discuss of "sol" is particularly troubling, and it appears that this scientific article may be a scientific investigation of reaction rates in solution rather than being directed to commercial elastomers. Without reference to the underlying article, it is difficult to make any conclusion in this regard.

Claims 3 - 4 and 6 - 7 (now 12, 13, 14, and 15) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Takago*. The claims are believed patentable over *Takago* for the same reasons as with SU 1512997 and J. APP. POLY. SCI., and withdrawal of this rejection is solicited.

New claims 24, 25, 27, and 28 have been added to particularly claim preferred catalysts which are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Claims 22, 23 (and 25, 26 in part) have been added to recite preferred compositions wherein the vinyl polysiloxanes are vinyl-terminated, and contain no vinyl-on-chain units required to be used by most if not all of the prior art, but with different catalysts. Claims 26 - 28 also require specific heat stabilizers which Applicants fail to find taught or suggested by the art.

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for Allowance, and respectfully request a Notice to that effect. If the Examiner believes that further discussion will advance the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is highly encouraged to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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